

Ante Communion Service --- Lent 3B --- March 7, 2021

Hymn

Praise to the Living God

St. Peter's McKinney

*Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.
The one eternal God ere aught that now appears:
the first, the last, beyond all thought his timeless years!*

*Formless, all lovely forms declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth can his express.
Lo, he is Lord of all. Creation speaks his praise,
and everywhere above, below, his will obeys.*

*His Spirit floweth free, high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spake of old: he speaketh still.
Established is his law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, on land.*

*Eternal life hath he implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Kyrie: *Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

Caeli enarrant

The heavens declare the glory of God, *

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *

and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *

and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; *

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *

the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *

the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *

the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *

cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal

for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Hymn

Lord Jesus Think on Me

Collegiate Church, St. Mary Warwick

*Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
From earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me, with care and woe oppress;
let me thy loving servant be, and taste thy promised rest.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery, be thou my health and life.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity, point thou the heav'nly way.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me, when flows the tempest high;
when on doth rush the enemy, O Savior, be thou nigh.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
I may th'eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the peace and unity of the world; **That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;

And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For wisdom in this time of pandemic; **That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.

May they be filled with your love.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray together for Christ's presence:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.

I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

People: **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

Blessing

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Choir of King's College

*When I survey the wondrous Cross, on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*His dying crimson like a robe, spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe, and all the globe is dead to me.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Dismissal

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Acapeldridge